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Bergström et al.

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(54) **ACTIVE TIME HANDLING WITH 2-STEP GRANTING**

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CPC **H04W 76/28** (2018.02); **H04W 72/042** (2013.01); **H04W 72/1284** (2013.01); **H04W 72/14** (2013.01); **H04W 76/27** (2018.02)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None
See application file for complete search history.

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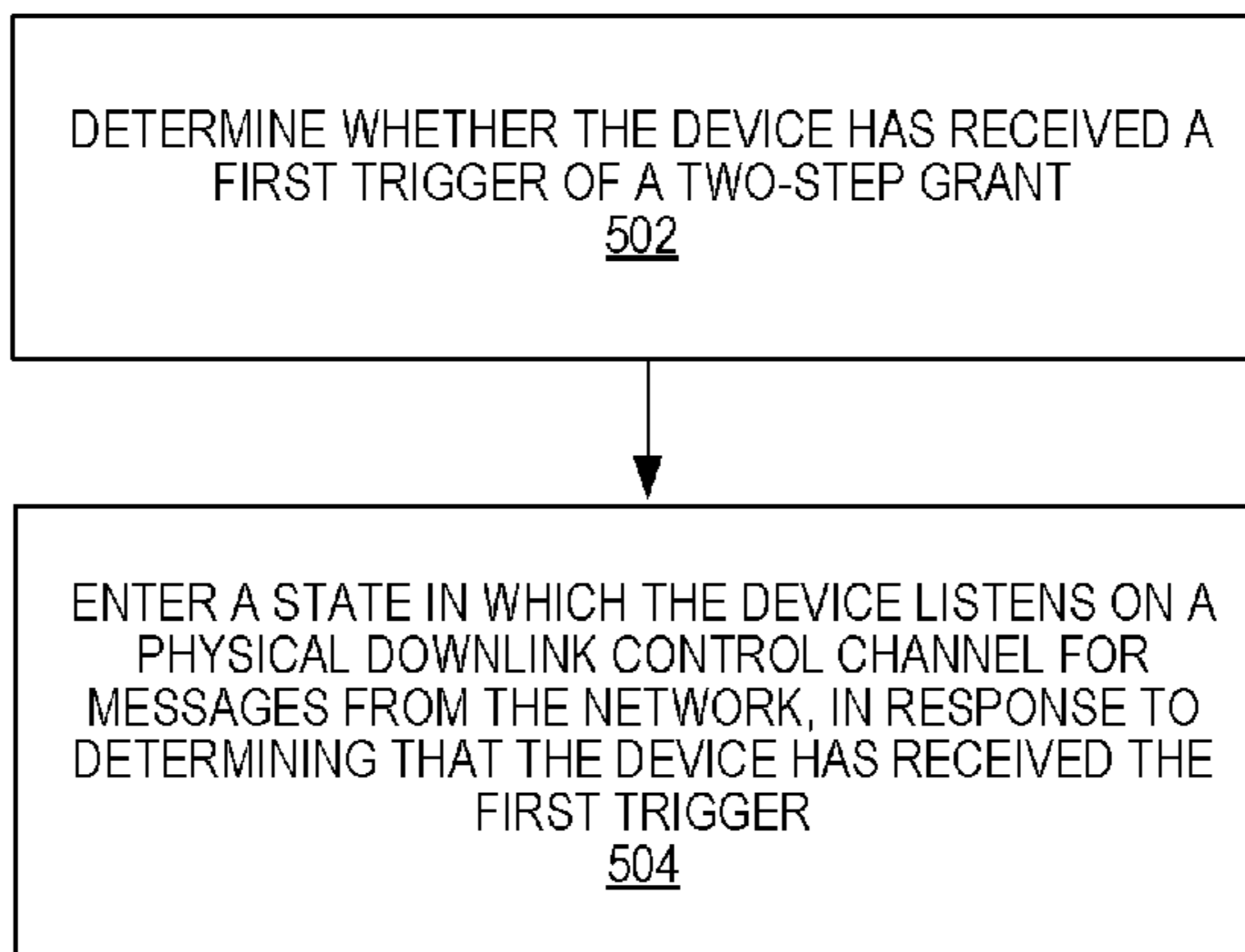
Primary Examiner — Jay P Patel

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A wireless communications device, operating according to a DRX configuration and configured to receive two-step grants for uplink transmissions, determines whether the device has received a first trigger of a two-step grant. The device enters a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network, in response to determining that the device has received the first trigger, without necessarily receiving the second trigger.

17 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets

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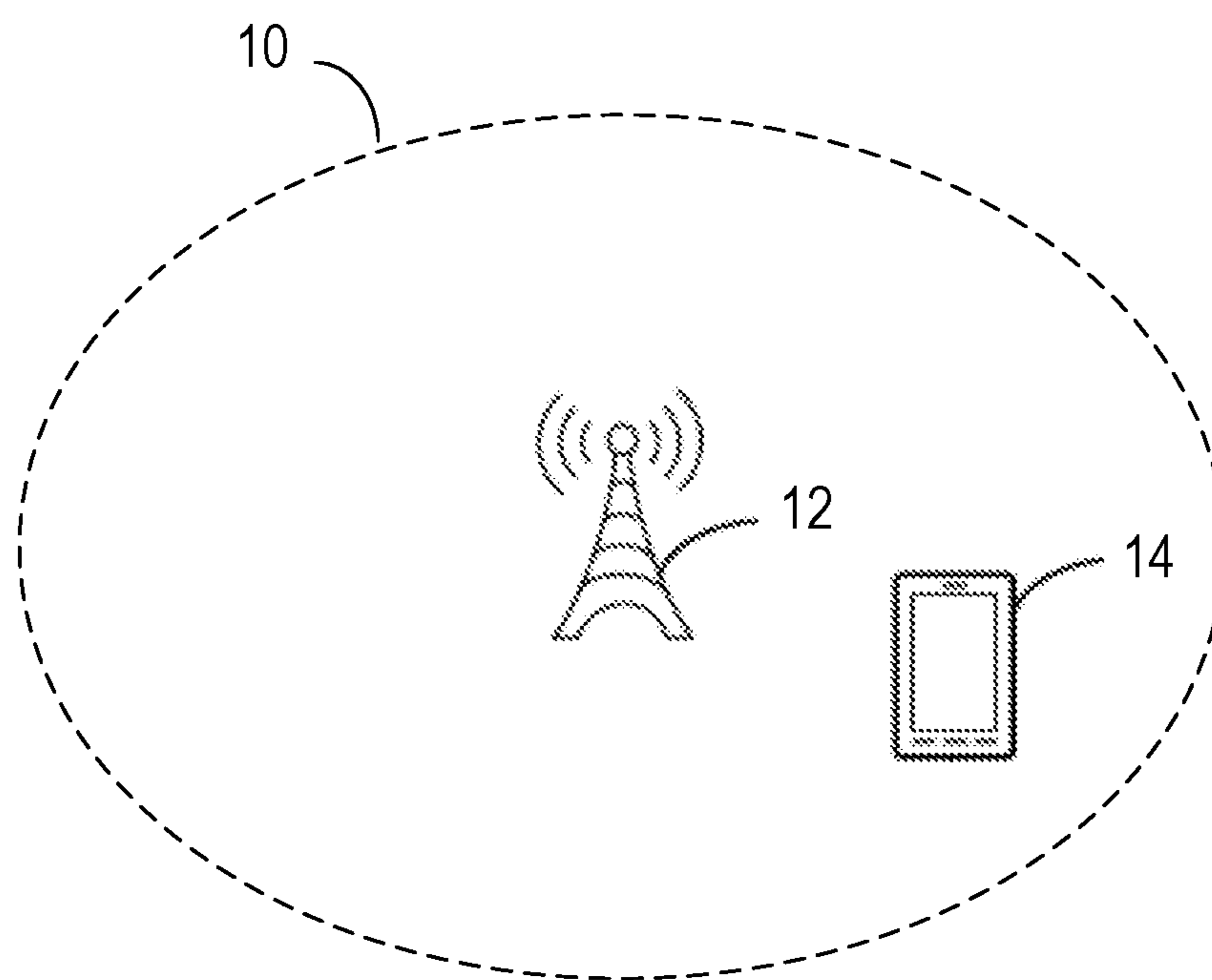


FIG. 1

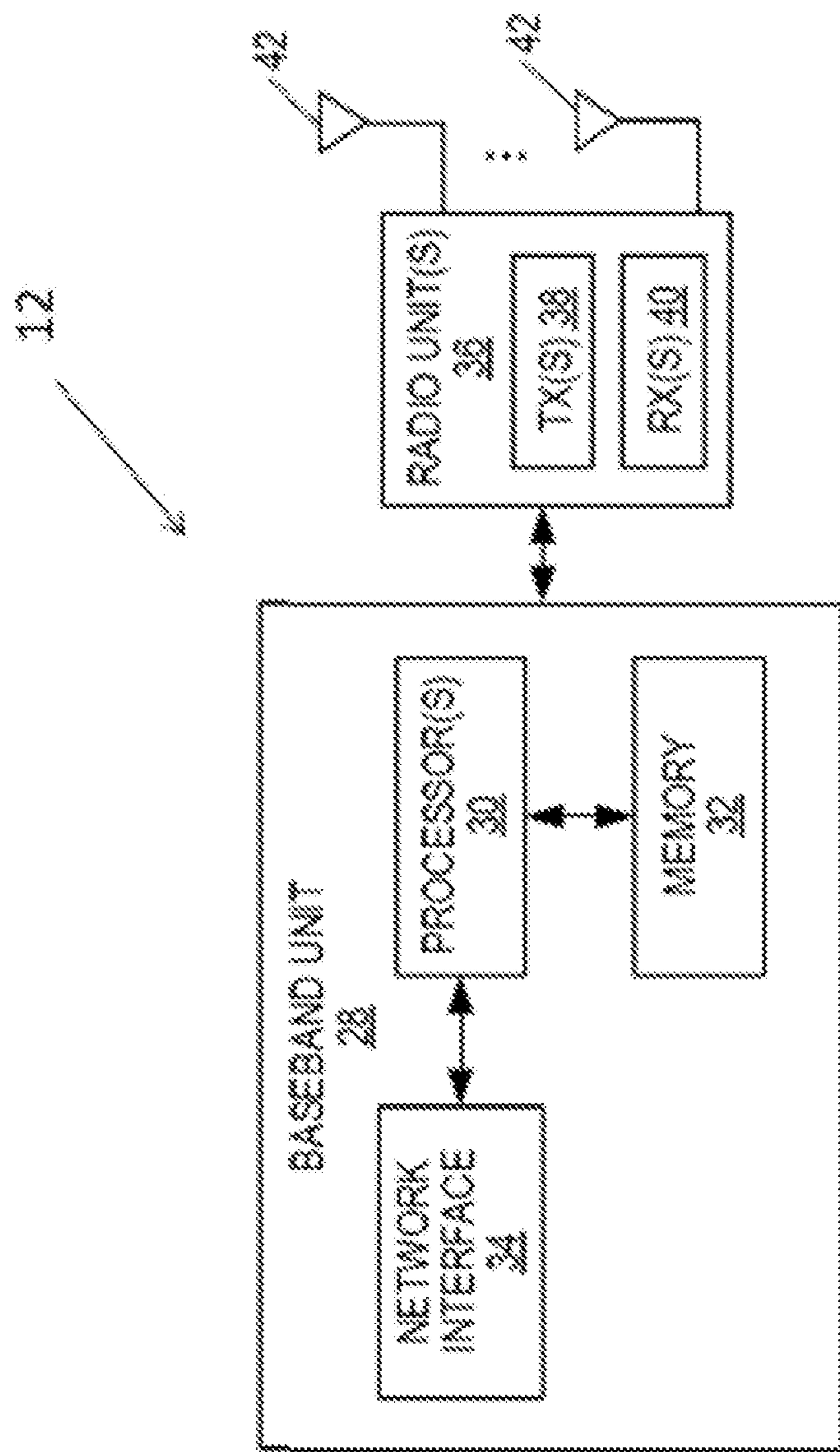
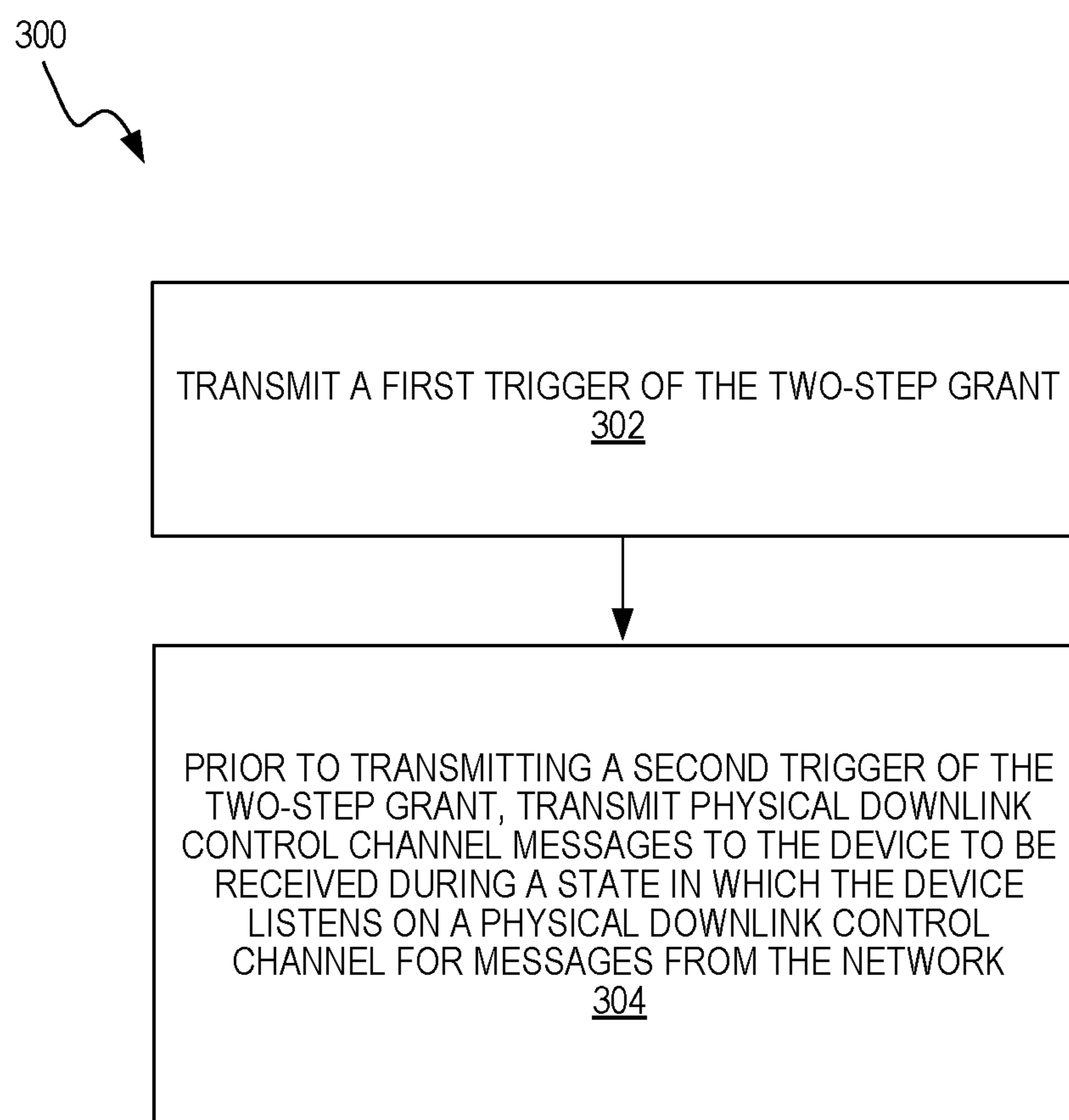


FIG. 2

**FIG. 3**

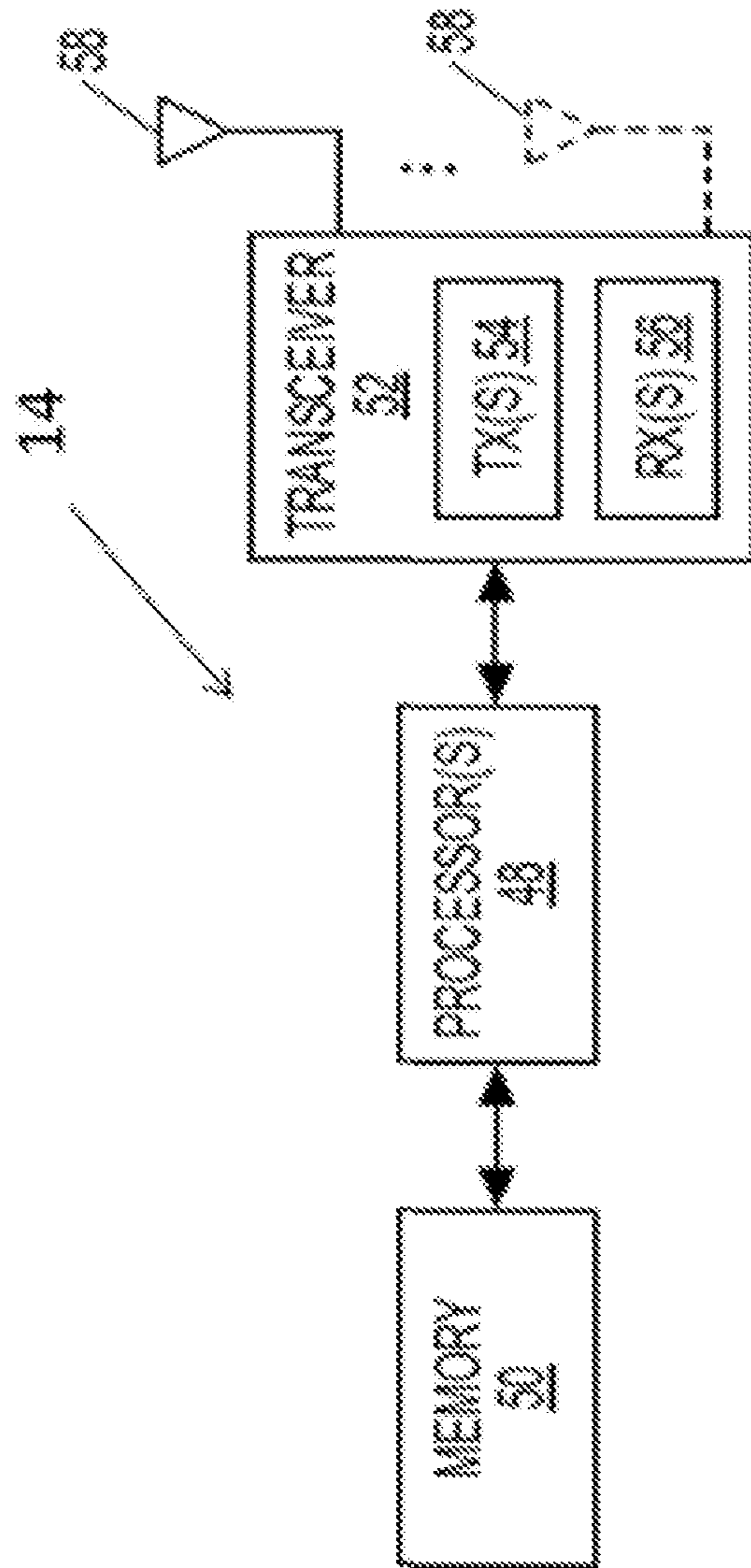


FIG. 4

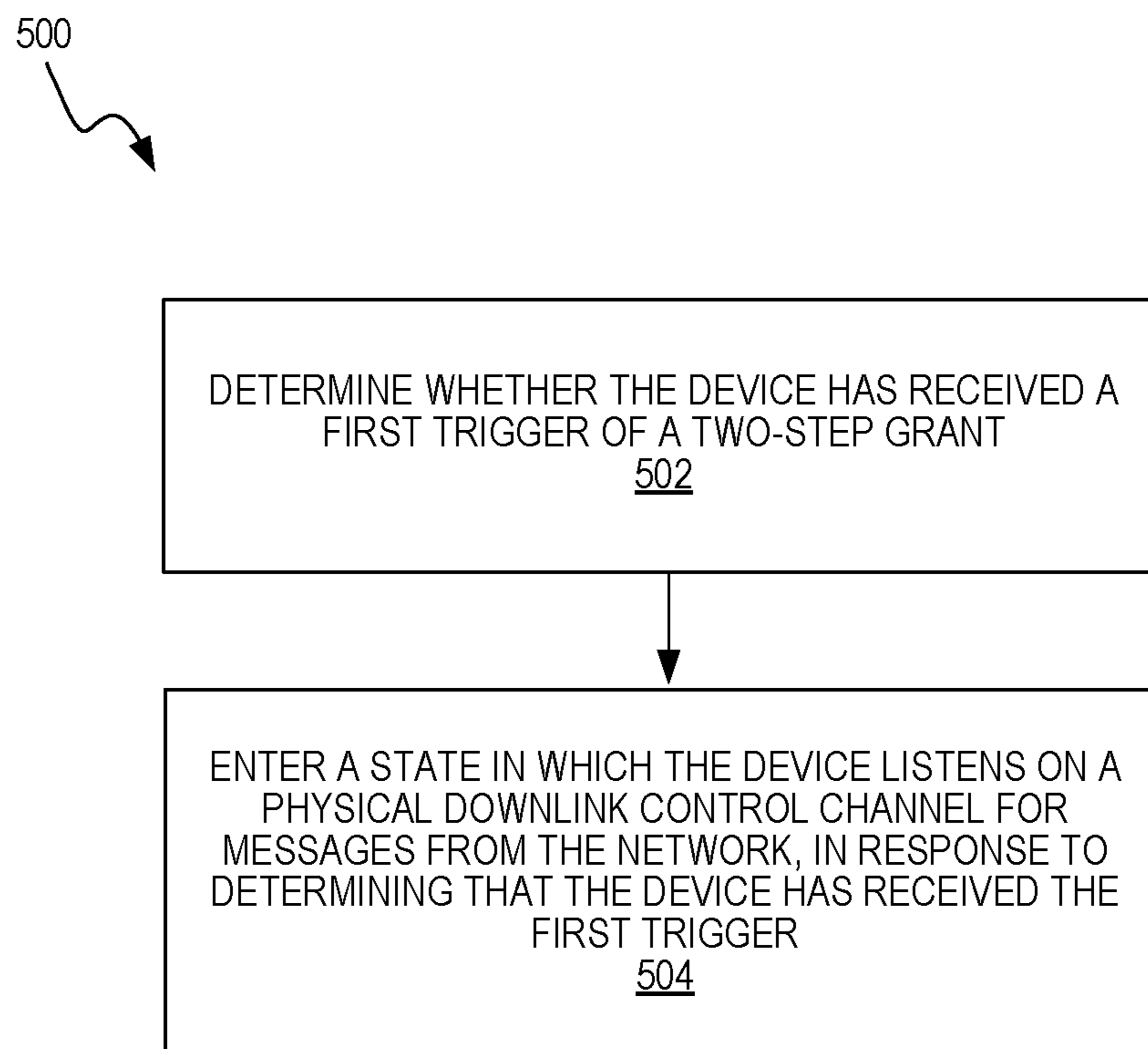


FIG. 5

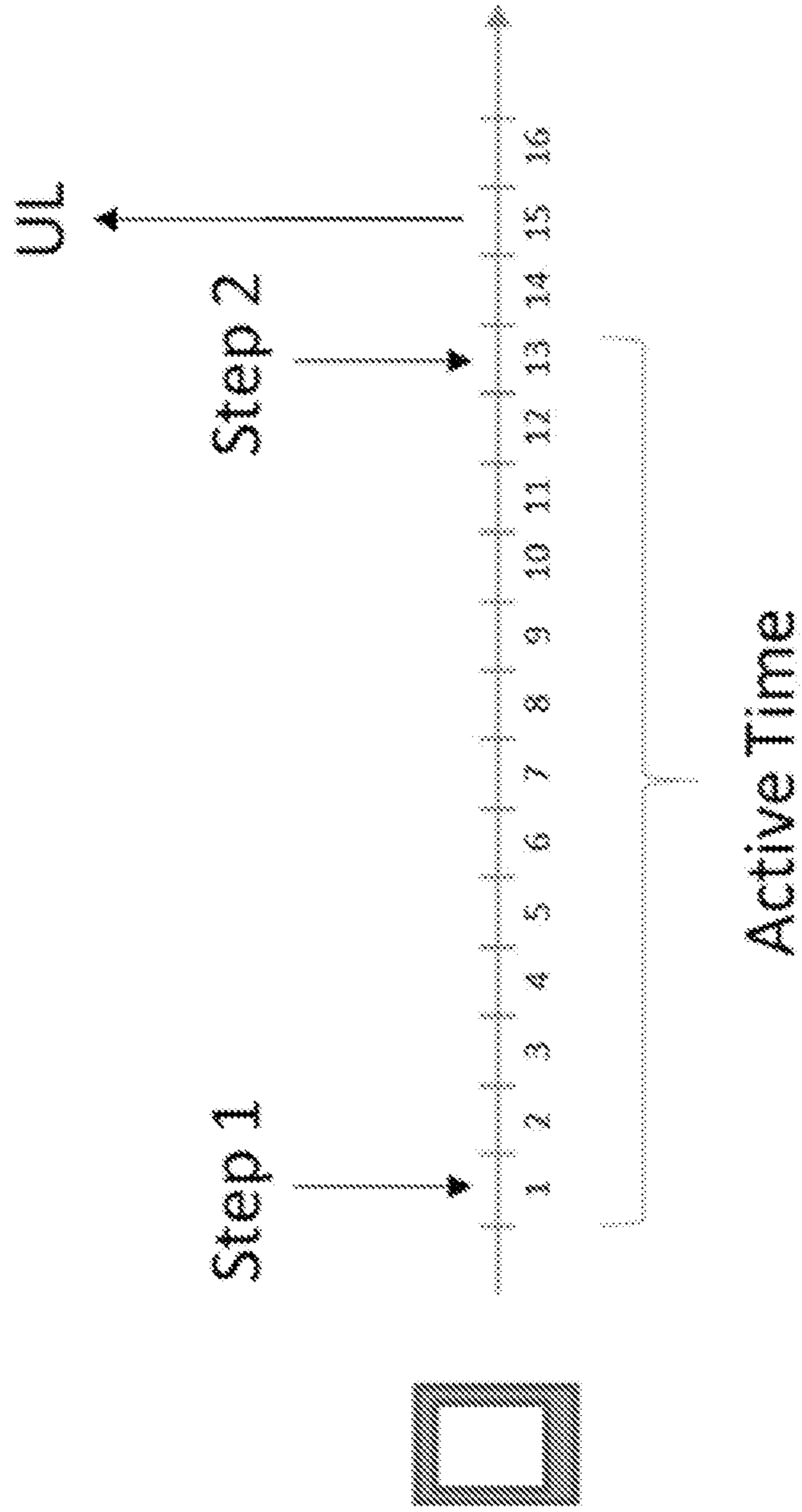


FIG. 6

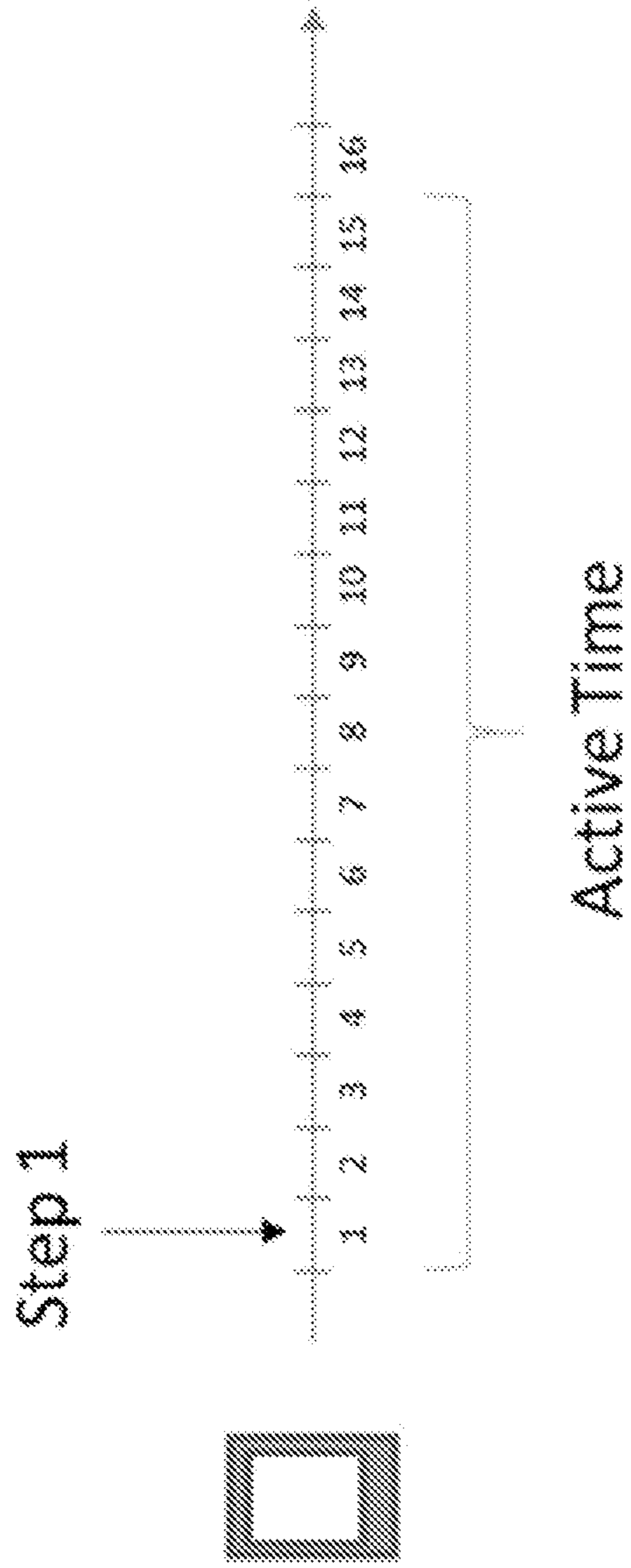


FIG. 7

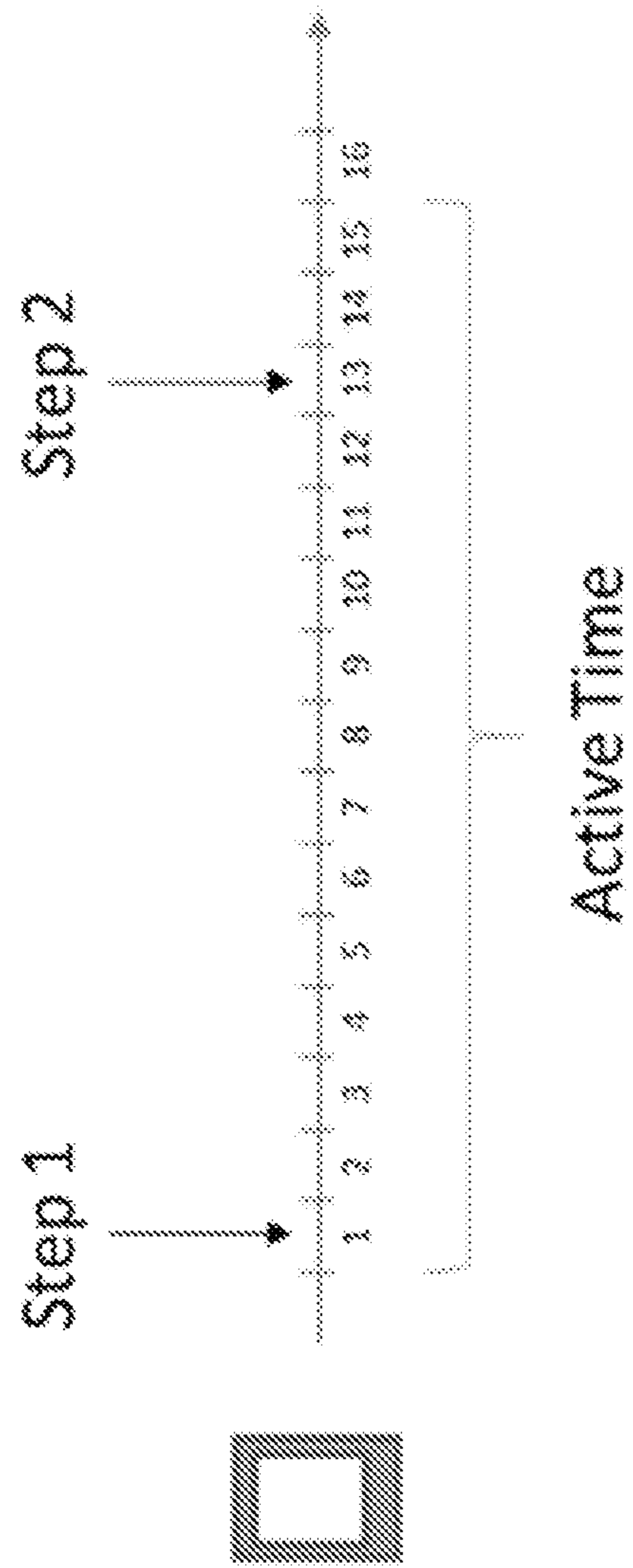


FIG. 8

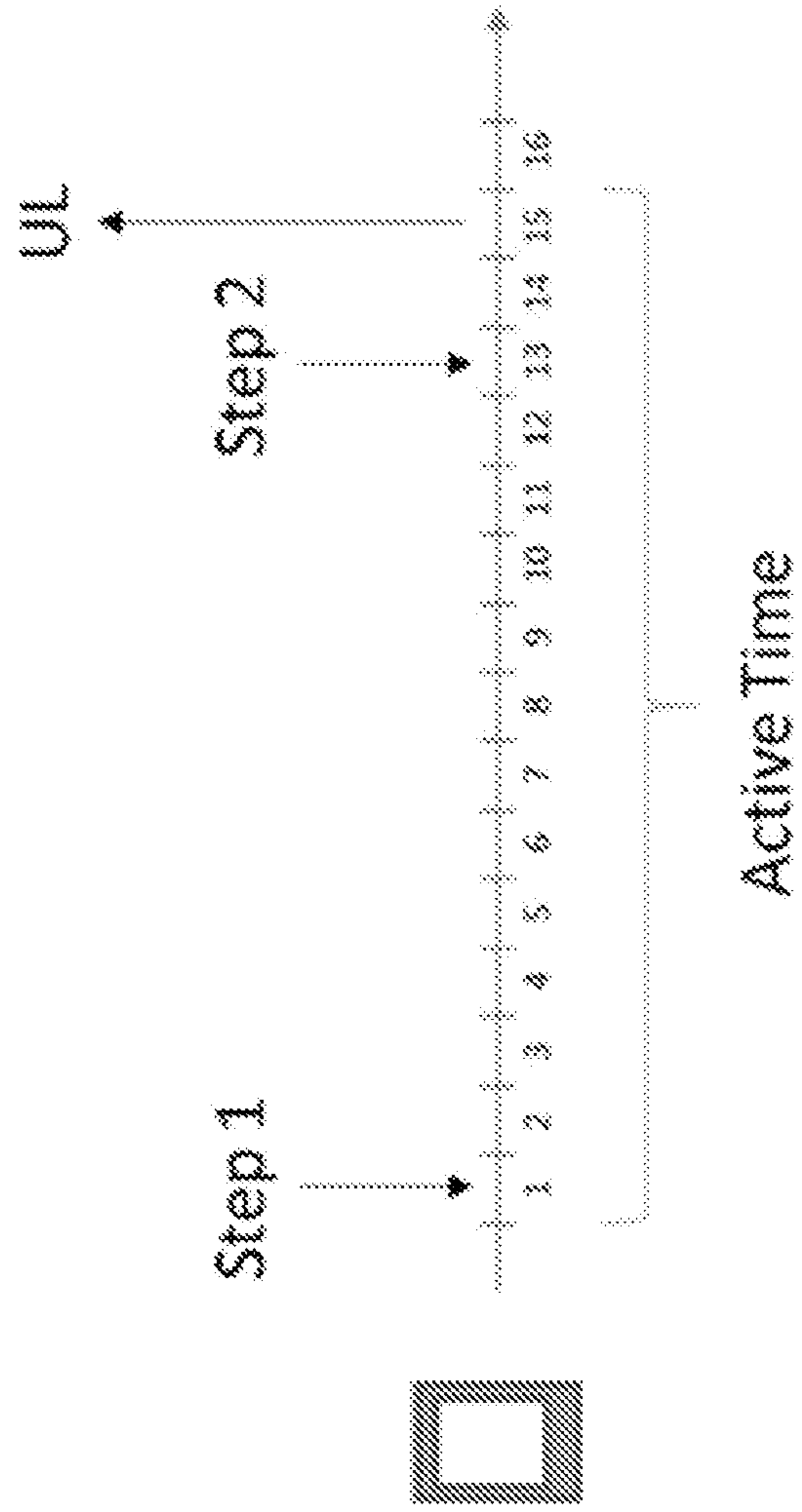


FIG. 9

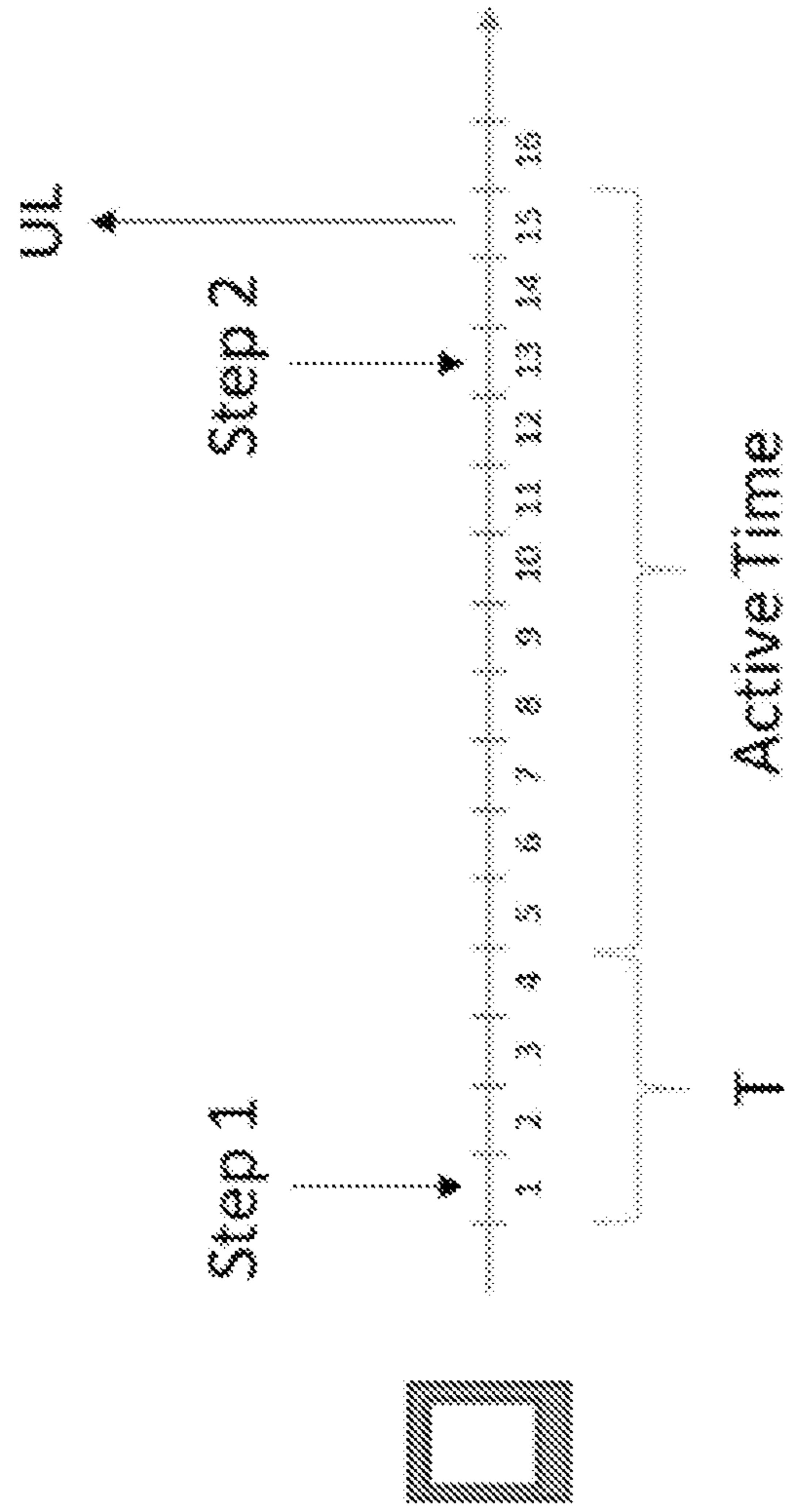


FIG. 10

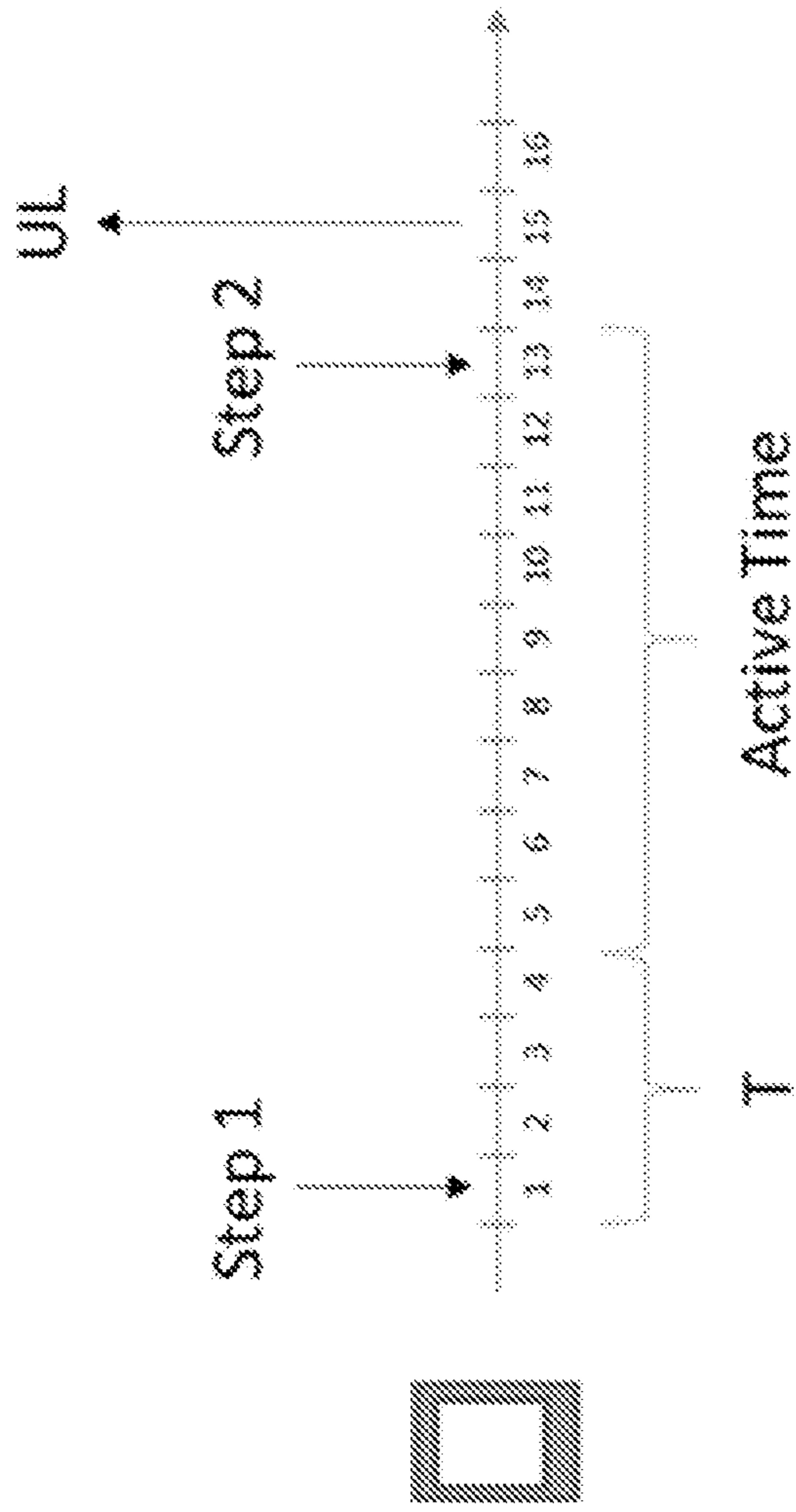


FIG. 11

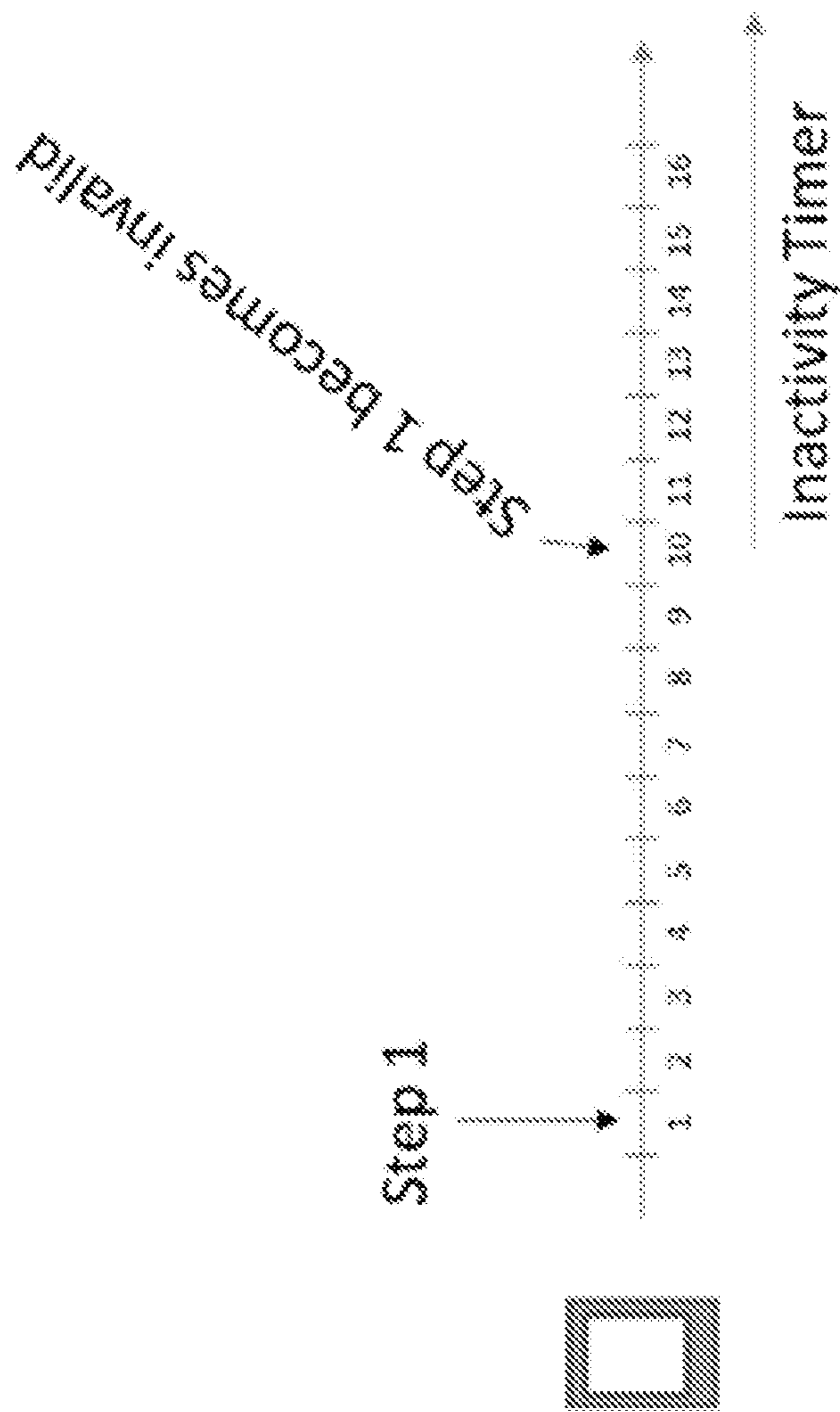


FIG. 12

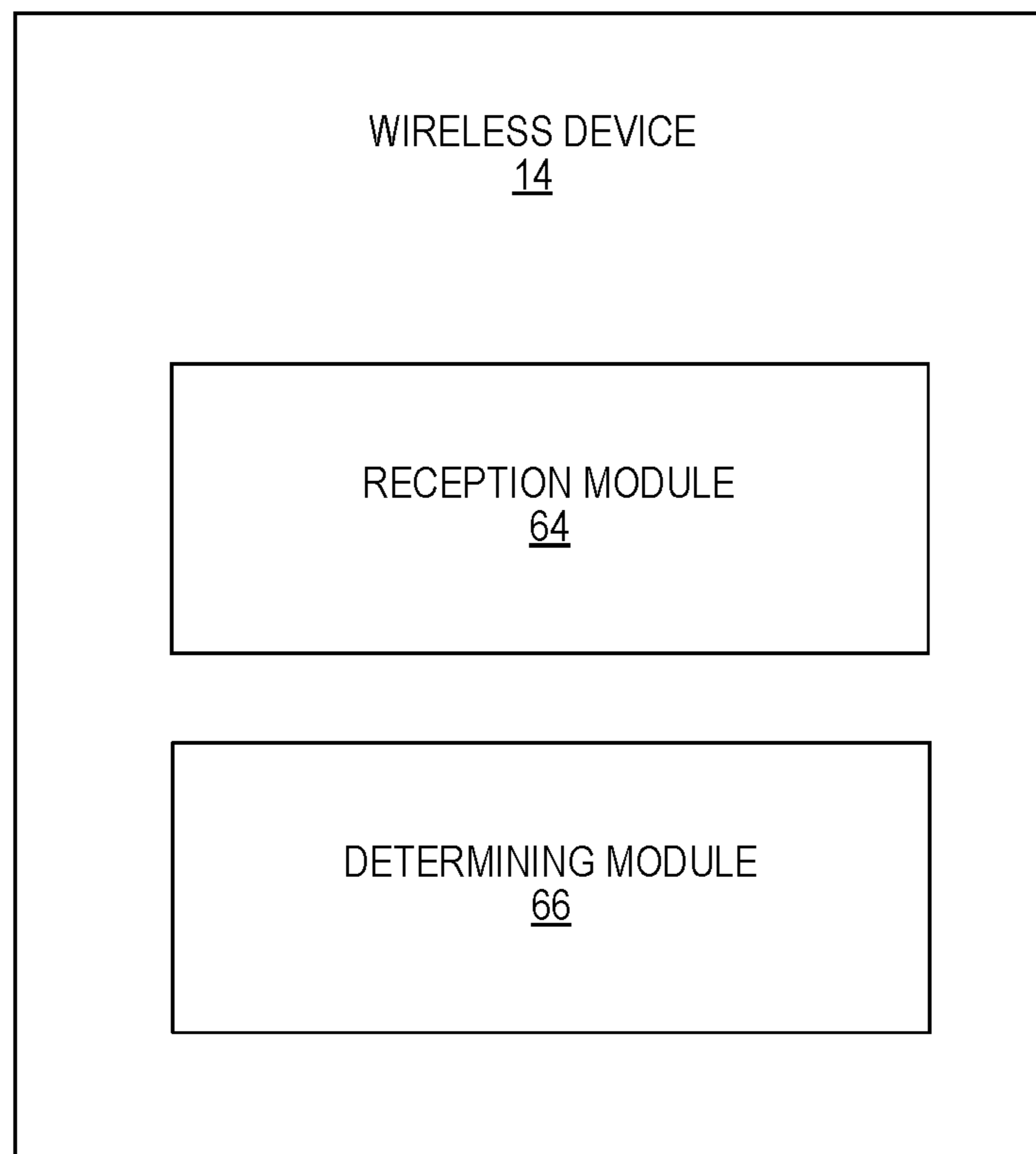


FIG. 13

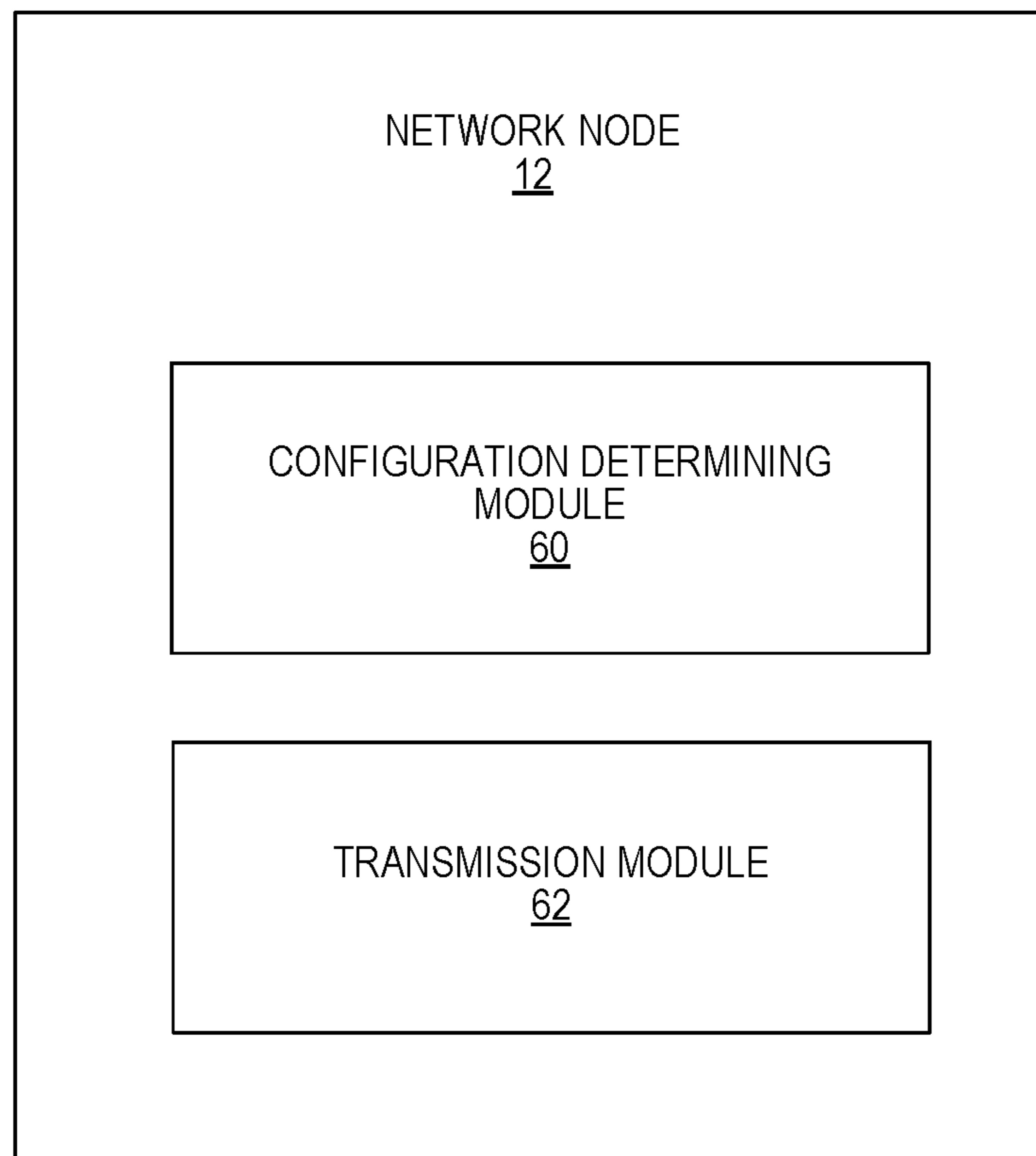


FIG. 14

ACTIVE TIME HANDLING WITH 2-STEP GRANTING

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a national stage application of International Patent Application No. PCT/IB2017/055539, filed Sep. 13, 2017, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 62/401,222, filed Sep. 29, 2016, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure relates generally to wireless communications, and more particularly to a wireless communications device operating according to a Discontinuous Reception (DRX) configuration and configured to receive, from a wireless communications network, two-step grants for uplink transmissions.

BACKGROUND

A user equipment (UE) may be configured with different discontinuous reception (DRX) configurations to save battery power. When the UE is in DRX sleep, the UE does not need to listen on a physical downlink control channel (e.g., PDCCH). When the UE is in DRX Active Time, the UE must normally listen on the PDCCH channel to wait for potential scheduling requests from the eNodeB (eNB).

The UE is in DRX active time when any of the conditions specified in section 5.7 in the MAC standard (3GPP TS 36.321 v13.2.0) is true and are summarized as:

1. DRX parameters are not configured; or
2. DRX parameters are configured and
 - 2.1 drx-Inactivity Timer is running; or
 - 2.2 drx-RetransmissionTimer is running; or
 - 2.3 mac-ContentionResolutionTimer is running; or
 - 2.4 a Scheduling Request sent on PUCCH is pending; or
 - 2.5 an uplink grant for a pending HARQ retransmission can occur and there is data in the corresponding HARQ buffer; or
 - 2.6 a PDCCH indicating a new transmission addressed to the C-RNTI of the UE has not been received after successful reception of a Random Access Response for the explicitly signaled preamble (only applicable to UEs in RRC_CONNECTED).

Otherwise

- 3 It is the state when DRX sleep is used.

DRX Cycles and the drx-Inactivity Timer

A UE in RRC_CONNECTED state and configured with the DRX function can be configured with both a long and a short DRX cycle. The intention with the long DRX cycle is that the UE should be able to sleep for a long time and only wake up within DRX active time periodically, to listen for any new scheduling requests. The intention with the short DRX cycle is that the UE should be awake more frequently than in long DRX cycle to listen for any scheduling requests. The time periods that the UE is awake to listen for scheduling requests is called OnDuration periods, and is configured for a certain time duration that the UE shall be awake.

When the UE is scheduled, the drx-InactivityTimer is started and while this timer is running the UE is awake to listen for any scheduling requests. When the drx-InactivityTimer expires, the UE will enter a short DRX sleep, if configured. Otherwise, the UE will enter a long DRX sleep.

Also, if the UE has not been scheduled for a configured number of short DRX cycles, the UE will enter a long DRX sleep.

Two-Step Grant Framework

5 In Long-Term Evolution (LTE), the eNB provides uplink transmission grants to the UE via PDCCH signaling. If the UE receives an uplink transmission grant via PDCCH in transmission time interval (TTI) N, the UE performs the associated PDCCH transmission in TTI N+4.

10 In Rel-14 of LTE, a two-step granting framework was introduced. According to the two-step scheduling framework, the UE can be scheduled using two PDCCH messages, where the combination of the two messages grants that the UE can perform an uplink transmission. In this framework, the UE first receives a PDCCH transmission that indicates a first trigger (sometimes referred to as “Step 1”, or “physical uplink shared channel (PUSCH) trigger A”), which has an associated second trigger (sometimes referred to as “Step 2”, or “PUSCH trigger B”) that is transmitted in a second PDCCH transmission.

Below is an excerpt from a 3GPP CR for 36.213 that describes the two-step grant framework:

For a serving cell that is a LAA SCell, a UE shall upon detection of an PDCCH/EPDCCH with DCI format 0A/0B/4A/4B and with PUSCH trigger A' field set to '0' in subframe n intended for the UE, or

upon detection of PDCCH/EPDCCH with DCI format 0A/0B/4A/4B and with PUSCH trigger A' field set to '1' in the most recent subframe from subframe n-v intended for the UE, and upon detection of PDCCH with DCI CRC scrambled by CC-RNTI and with PUSCH trigger B' field set to '1' in subframe n

perform a corresponding PUSCH transmission, conditioned on the channel access procedures described in clause 15.2.1, in subframe(s) n+l+k+i with i=0, 1, . . . , N-1 according to the PDCCH/EPDCCH and HARQ process ID mod ($n_{HARQ_ID}+i$, N_{HARQ}), where N=1 for DCI format 0A/4A, and value of N is determined by the ‘number of scheduled subframes’ field in the corresponding DCI format 0B/4B.

The UE is configured the maximum value of N by higher layer parameter `maxNumberOfSchedSubframes-Format0B` for DCI format 0B and higher layer parameter `maxNumberOfSchedSubframes-Format4B` for DCI format 4B;

value of k is determined by the scheduling delay field in the corresponding DCI 0A/0B/4A/4B according to Table 8.2d if PUSCH trigger A' field set to '0' or Table 8.2e otherwise;

value of n_{HARQ_ID} is determined by the HARQ process number field in the corresponding DCI format 0A/0B/4A/4B and $N_{HARQ}=16$;

for PUSCH trigger A' field set to '0' in the corresponding DCI format 0A/0B/4A/4B,

l=4

otherwise

value of l is the UL offset as determined by the ‘UL configuration for LAA’ field in the corresponding DCI with CRC scrambled by CC-RNTI according to the procedure in subclause 13A, and PUSCH trigger B' field set to '1',

value of v is determined by the validation duration field in the corresponding PDCCH/EPDCCH with DCI format 0A/0B/4A/4B according to Table 8.2f, and PUSCH trigger A' field set to '1'

the smallest value of l+k supported by the UE is included in the UE-EUTRA-Capability

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TABLE 8.2d

k for DCI format 0A/0B/4A/4B with 'PUSCH trigger A' field set to '0'.	
Value of 'scheduling delay' field	k
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	8
1001	9
1010	10
1011	11
1100	12
1101	13
1110	14
1111	15

TABLE 8.2e

k for DCI format 0A/0B/4A/4B with 'PUSCH trigger A' field set to '1'.	
Value of 'scheduling delay' field	k
00	0
01	1
10	2
11	3

TABLE 8.2f

v for DCI format 0A/0B/4A/4B with 'PUSCH trigger A' field set to '1'.	
Value of 'validation duration' field	v
00	8
01	12
10	16
11	20

As explained above, according to the two-step granting framework, the UE receives two messages, which in combination determines when the UE should perform the uplink transmission.

In the current DRX framework in LTE, the UE starts an inactivity timer for when the UE will be in Active Time (or "awake") when PDCCH indicates an uplink transmission. In the scenario where two-step granting is applied, this would result in the UE staying awake only when the UE has received Step 2, since before receiving Step 2, the UE has not yet received the actual grant. This can thus result in the UE not being in Active Time and hence not monitoring PDCCH. The UE could therefore not be reached by the eNB.

SUMMARY

Embodiments of this disclosure describe a UE that can be in Active Time during a time prior to when the UE has received a complete grant. That is, the UE can be in Active Time before Step 2 when two-step granting is used. This allows the eNB to send messages to the UE via the PDCCH,

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even though a complete grant has not been provided to the UE. This can improve user throughput and system performance. Active Time may include when the UE is in a state in which the UE listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network.

According to some embodiments, a method is performed by a wireless communications device operating according to a DRX configuration and configured to receive, from a wireless communications network, two-step grants for uplink transmissions. The method includes determining whether the device has received a first trigger of a two-step grant and entering a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network, in response to determining that the device has received the first trigger.

According to some embodiments, a wireless communications device configured to operate according to a DRX configuration and configured to receive, from a wireless communications network, two-step grants for uplink transmissions, includes transceiver circuitry configured for communication with the network and processing circuitry operatively associated with the transceiver circuitry. The processing circuitry is configured to determine whether the device has received a first trigger of a two-step grant and cause the device to enter a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network, in response to determining that the device has received the first trigger.

According to some embodiments, a method is performed by a network node of a wireless communications network, where the network node is configured to provide, to a wireless communications device operating according to a DRX configuration, two-step grants for uplink transmissions. The method includes transmitting a first trigger of the two-step grant and prior to transmitting a second trigger of the two-step grant, transmitting physical downlink control channel messages to the device to be received during a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network.

According to some embodiments, a network node of a wireless communications network, where the network node is configured to provide, to a wireless communications device operating according to a DRX configuration, two-step grants for uplink transmissions, includes transceiver circuitry configured for communication with the device and processing circuitry operatively associated with the transceiver circuitry. The processing circuitry is configured to transmit, via the transceiver circuitry, a first trigger of the two-step grant, and prior to transmitting a second trigger of the two-step grant, transmit physical downlink control channel messages to the device to be received during a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network.

According to some embodiments, a non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing a computer program comprising program instructions that, when executed on a processing circuit of a wireless communications device configured to operate according to a DRX configuration and configured to receive, from a wireless communications network, two-step grants for uplink transmissions, cause the device to determine whether the device has received a first trigger of a two-step grant and cause the device to enter a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network, in response to determining that the device has received the first trigger.

According to some embodiments, a non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing a computer program

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comprising program instructions that, when executed on a processing circuit of a network node of a wireless communications network, the network node configured to provide, to a wireless communications device operating according to a DRX configuration, two-step grants for uplink transmissions, cause the network node to transmit a first trigger of the two-step grant and prior to transmitting a second trigger of the two-step grant, transmit physical downlink control channel messages to the device to be received during a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network.

According to some embodiments, a method performed by a wireless communications device operable to receive two-step grants. The method can include determining that the device has received a first step of a two-step grant and entering Active Time in response to said determining that the device has received the first step.

The method may further include determining that the first step became invalid, and in response to the determining, exiting Active Time. The method may also include determining that the device has received a second step, and in response to the determining, exiting Active Time.

Another embodiment of the present disclosure is directed to a wireless communications device configured to receive two-step grants. The device can include processing circuitry configured to determine that the device has received a first step of a two-step grant and exit Active Time in response to determining that the device has received the first step.

The processing circuitry may be configured to determine that the first step became invalid and, in response to the determining, exit Active Time. The processing circuitry may also be configured to determine that the device has received a second step, and, in response to the determining, exit Active Time.

Of course, various modules of hardware and software elements, alone or combination, could be used to perform the steps described herein at one or any combination of network nodes. Other advantages and features of various embodiments will become apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art, in light of the following detailed description and accompanying figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawing figures incorporated in and forming a part of this specification illustrate several aspects of the disclosure, and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the disclosure.

FIG. 1 illustrates a cellular communications network, according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2 is a diagram of a network node according to some embodiments.

FIG. 3 is an exemplary flowchart illustrating a method by a network node, according to some embodiments.

FIG. 4 is a diagram of a wireless device according to some embodiments.

FIG. 5 is an exemplary flowchart illustrating a method by a wireless device, according to some embodiments.

FIG. 6 illustrates a case where the UE is in Active Time from Step 1 until Step 2, according to an exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 7 illustrates a case where the UE is in Active Time from Step 1 until a certain period of time, but if Step 2 does not arrive within that period of time the UE exits Active Time, according to an exemplary embodiment.

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FIG. 8 illustrates a case where the UE is in Active Time after receiving Step 1, and the UE stays in Active Time, even if Step 2 is received, according to an exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 9 illustrates a case where the UE is in Active Time from Step 1 until the uplink transmission triggered by Step 2, according to an exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 10 illustrates a case where the UE is in Active Time from a time T after reception of Step 1 until the uplink transmission triggered by Step 2, according to an exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 11 illustrates a case where the UE is in Active Time from a time T after reception of Step 1 until the reception of Step 2, according to an exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 12 illustrates the case when the UE starts an inactivity timer in response to Step 1 becoming invalid, according to an exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 13 is a diagram of a wireless device including modules according to some embodiments.

FIG. 14 is a diagram of a network node including modules according to some embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The embodiments set forth below represent information to enable those skilled in the art to practice the embodiments and illustrate the best mode of practicing the embodiments. Upon reading the following description in light of the accompanying drawing figures, those skilled in the art will understand the concepts of the disclosure and will recognize applications of these concepts not particularly addressed herein. It should be understood that these concepts and applications fall within the scope of the disclosure.

Any two or more embodiments described in this document may be combined in any way with each other. Furthermore, even though some examples herein are given in the Internet of Things (IoT) context, the embodiments described herein are not limited to IoT and can also apply in a more general case when a network node or User Equipment (UE) may need to signal or receive Cell Identity, Network Identity, and/or Frequency Hopping (FH) patterns.

In some embodiments, a non-limiting term “UE” is used. The UE herein can be any type of wireless device capable of communicating with network node or another UE over radio signals. The UE may also be a radio communication device, a target device, a Device-to-Device (D2D) UE, a machine type UE, a UE capable of Machine-to-Machine communication (M2M), a sensor equipped with UE, iPad, Tablet, mobile terminal, smart phone, Laptop Embedded Equipment (LEE), Laptop Mounted Equipment (LME), Universal Serial Bus (USB) dongle, Customer Premises Equipment (CPE), etc.

Also in some embodiments, generic terminology “network node” is used. It can be any kind of network node which may be comprised of a radio network node such as a base station, radio base station, base transceiver station, base station controller, network controller, evolved Node B (eNB), Node B, Multi-cell/multicast Coordination Entity (MCE), relay node, access point, radio access point, Remote Radio Unit (RRU) Remote Radio Head (RRH), a core network node (e.g., MME, Self-Organizing Network (SON) node, a coordinating node, etc.), or even an external node (e.g., 3rd party node, a node external to the current network), etc. The term “radio node” used herein may be used to denote a UE or a radio network node.

The embodiments are applicable to single carrier as well as to multicarrier or Carrier Aggregation (CA) operation of

the UE in which the UE is able to receive and/or transmit data to more than one serving cells. The term Carrier Aggregation (CA) is also called (e.g. interchangeably called) “multi-carrier system,” “multi-cell operation,” “multi-carrier operation,” “multi-carrier transmission,” and/or reception. In CA, one of the Component Carriers (CCs) is the Primary Component Carrier (PCC) or simply primary carrier or even anchor carrier. The remaining ones are called Secondary Component Carrier (SCC) or simply secondary carriers or even supplementary carriers. The serving cell is interchangeably called as Primary Cell (PCell) or Primary Serving Cell (PSC). Similarly, the secondary serving cell is interchangeably called as Secondary Cell (SCell) or Secondary Serving Cell (SSC).

The term “signaling” used herein may comprise any of: high-layer signaling (e.g., via Radio Resource Control (RRC)), lower-layer signaling (e.g., via a physical control channel or a broadcast channel), or a combination thereof. The signaling may be implicit or explicit. The signaling may further be unicast, multicast, or broadcast. The signaling may also be directly to another node or via a third node.

The term “signal transmission” used herein may refer to a certain type of periodic signal that is transmitted by the network node in downlink or by the UE in the uplink. The signal transmission may comprise a physical signal or a physical channel or both. The physical signal does not carry higher layer information, whereas the physical channel carries higher layer information. These signals are used by the network node and/or by the UE for performing one or more operations.

FIG. 1 illustrates a cellular communications network 10 in which embodiments of the present disclosure can be implemented. In some embodiments, the cellular communications network 10 includes a Radio Access Network (RAN) (e.g., an Evolved Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN) for LTE) including at least one base station 12 (sometimes referred to herein as “network node 12”) providing a cell of the cellular communications network 10. The network node 12 provides radio access to a wireless device, such as UE 14, located within the respective cell. The network node 12 may be communicatively coupled via a base station to a base station interface (e.g., an X2 interface in LTE), to another base station, or to another network node. Further, in some embodiments, the network node 12 is connected to a core network (e.g., an Evolved Packet Core (EPC) in LTE) via corresponding interfaces (e.g., S1 interfaces in LTE). The core network includes various core network nodes such as, e.g., Mobility Management Entities (MMEs), Serving Gateways (S-GWs), and Packet Data Network (PDN) Gateways (P-GWs), as will be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art.

FIG. 2 is a diagram of a network node 12 according to some embodiments of the present disclosure. In some embodiments, the network node 12 may be a base station such as an eNB. The network node 12 includes circuitry containing instructions, which when executed, cause the network node 12 to implement the methods and functionality described herein. In one example, the circuitry can include one or more processors 30 and a memory 32 containing instructions. The baseband unit 28 also includes a network interface 34. The network interface 34 may include one or more components (e.g., network interface card(s)) that connect the transmitter network node to other systems. The network node 12 also includes at least one radio unit 36 with one or more transmitters 38, one or more receivers 40, and one or more antennas 42. In some embodi-

ments, the network node 12, or the functionality of the network node 12 described with respect to any one of the embodiments described herein, is implemented in software that is stored in, e.g., the memory 32 and executed by the processor 30.

In some embodiments, a computer program including instructions that, when executed by the at least one processor 30, causes the at least one processor 30 to carry out the functionality of the network node 12 according to any one of the embodiments described herein is provided. The processor 30 is configured to provide, to a wireless communications device operating according to a DRX configuration, two-step grants for uplink transmissions. The processor 30 is configured to transmit, via the radio unit 36, a first trigger of the two-step grant. The processing circuitry 30 is also configured to, prior to transmitting a second trigger of the two-step grant, transmit physical downlink control channel messages to the device to be received during a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network.

The device may start a timer that controls the duration of Active Time at the device, or the duration of the time that the device is in the state. Accordingly, the processor 30 may be configured to transmit a duration of a timer to be started by the device, where the device exits the state only upon expiration of the timer. The processor 30 may also be configured to determine whether the device is configured to enter the state before receiving the second trigger.

In some embodiments, a carrier containing the aforementioned computer program product is provided. The carrier is one of an electronic signal, an optical signal, a radio signal, or a computer readable storage medium (e.g., a non-transitory computer readable medium such as the memory 32).

FIG. 3 is an exemplary flowchart illustrating various functions in a method 300 performed, for example, by network node 12. The method 300 includes transmitting a first trigger of the two-step grant (block 302) and prior to transmitting a second trigger of the two-step grant, transmitting physical downlink control channel messages to the device to be received a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network (block 304). The method 300 may then include transmitting the second trigger.

The method 300 may include transmitting a duration of a timer to be started by the device, where the device exits the state only upon expiration of the timer. In some cases, the method 300 also includes determining whether the device is configured to enter the state before receiving the second trigger.

FIG. 4 is a diagram of a wireless communications device, such as for UE 14, according to some embodiments. As illustrated, UE 14 includes at least one processor 48 and memory 50. The UE 14 also includes a transceiver 52 with one or more transmitters 54, one or more receivers 56, and one or more antennas 58. In some embodiments, UE 14, or the functionality of the wireless device 14 described with respect to any one of the embodiments described herein, is implemented in software that is stored in, e.g., the memory 50 and executed by the processor 48. The transceiver 52 uses the one or more antennas 58 to transmit and receive signals and may include one or more components that connect the UE 14 to other systems.

In some embodiments, a computer program including instructions that, when executed by at least one processor 48, causes the at least one processor 48 to carry out the functionality of the UE 14 according to any one of the embodiments described herein is provided, including a

wireless communications device configured to operate according to a DRX configuration and configured to receive, from a wireless communications network, two-step grants for uplink transmissions. The processor **48** is configured to determine whether the device has received a first trigger of a two-step grant and cause the device to enter a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network, in response to determining that the device has received the first trigger.

In some embodiments, a carrier containing the aforementioned computer program product is provided. The carrier is one of an electronic signal, an optical signal, a radio signal, or a computer readable storage medium (e.g., a non-transitory computer readable medium such as the memory **50**).

FIG. **5** is an exemplary flowchart illustrating various functions in a method **500** performed, for example, by UE **14**. The method includes determining whether the device has received a first trigger of a two-step grant (block **502**). The method **500** also includes entering a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network, in response to determining that the device has received the first trigger (block **504**). Of course, various other network nodes, alone or in combination, or various processing units, can perform the functionality described herein.

As defined for the following embodiments, Active Time is a time during a DRX cycle or a state of the UE in which the UE listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network. This may include listening on a PDCCH for scheduling requests from the network. It should be appreciated that even though the methods described above may dictate whether the UE is or is not in Active Time, there may be other mechanisms that cause the UE to enter or exit Active Time. For example, the DRX mechanism in LTE comprises different timers (e.g., the onDuration timer and the inactivity timer) and while those timers are running, the UE might stay in Active Time.

Conditions on being in Active Time

In one embodiment, the UE can be in a state in which it listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network from a first trigger to a second trigger of the two-step grant. In the embodiments illustrated by FIGS. **6-12**, this state is referred to as “Active Time” and the first and second triggers are referred to as Step 1 and Step 2. FIG. **6** illustrates the scenario where the UE is in Active Time from Step 1 until Step 2.

It may be so that the TTI which Step 1 and/or Step-2 are received in are either included or not included in Active Time. For example, Active Time may include the TTI in which the second trigger (Step 2) was received. Active Time may also include the TTI in which the first trigger (Step 1) was received.

In another embodiment, the UE will be in Active Time from the first trigger until the first trigger becomes invalid. For example, the method **500** may include determining whether the first trigger became invalid and, in response to determining that the first trigger became invalid, exiting a state in which the device listens on a physical downlink control channel for messages from the network. FIG. **7** illustrates the scenario where the UE is in Active Time from Step 1 until a certain period of time. If Step 2 does not arrive within that period of time, the UE exits Active Time. For example, this can be the case if Step 1 is valid for just a certain period of time after reception of Step 1.

In some cases, the method **500** includes starting a timer in response to receiving the first trigger and exiting the state only upon expiration of the timer. The duration of the timer

may be received with the first trigger or in Radio Resource Control, RRC, signaling. In some cases, the timer is stopped in response to receiving the second trigger. In some embodiments, the device exits the state only upon expiration of the timer, which is before the second trigger has been received.

A combination of the above embodiments may be applied wherein the UE will be in the state from the first trigger to the second trigger, or until the first trigger becomes invalid. This ensures that, even though the eNB has not provided a complete grant to the UE, the UE will monitor PDCCH continuously, ensuring that the eNB can provide the second trigger, or any other PDCCH transmission to the UE.

When the UE is in the state until the second trigger, the UE considers the time when the second trigger is received/decoded. But it should be noted though that the UE may at this point in time be in Active Time for other reasons, e.g., due to that an inactivity Timer is running.

Although some embodiments herein describe that the UE is in Active Time, or the UE state, from receiving the first trigger until receiving the second trigger (or until the first trigger becomes invalid), and hence that the UE “exits” Active Time in response to receiving the second trigger (or in response to the first trigger becoming invalid), the UE can remain in Active Time when the second trigger is received (or when the first trigger becomes invalid) since the timer is running FIG. **8** illustrates the scenario where the UE is in Active Time for a certain period of time after receiving Step 1, and the UE stays in Active Time for a period of time, even if Step 2 is received. The period of time may be the validity of Step 1. Accordingly, the method **500** may include determining whether the device has received the second trigger. The method **500** may also include, in response to determining that the device has received the second trigger, determining whether a particular timer is running. The method **500** then includes, in response to determining that the timer is running, exiting the state only after expiration of the timer.

Another possibility is that the UE is in Active Time until the associated uplink transmission is performed (the time of which may be indicated in the second trigger). FIG. **9** illustrates the scenario where the UE is in Active Time from Step 1 until the uplink transmission triggered by Step 2. In this case, the method **500** includes receiving the second trigger and exiting the state in response to transmitting an uplink transmission triggered by the second trigger.

When the UE is in Active Time from the first trigger, this may mean that the UE is in Active Time in response to reception of the first trigger. This may be the time when the UE receives/decodes the first trigger, e.g. in the same subframe, or it may be in the following subframe. Another possibility is that the UE will be in Active Time from a time T after the UE has received the first trigger. For example, entering Active Time may include waiting a predetermined period of time T after receiving the first trigger before entering Active Time. This is beneficial, for example, if some time is needed by the UE to decode the first trigger. That is, it may take some time for the UE to determine that the first trigger has been received and hence that the UE should be in Active Time. The time T may be specified in a specification, alternatively it could be signaled to the UE (e.g. using RRC/MAC/PDCCH signaling, etc.).

Accordingly, FIG. **10** illustrates the scenario where the UE is in Active time from a time T after reception of Step 1 until the uplink transmission is triggered by Step 2. FIG. **11** illustrates the scenario where the UE is in Active time from a time T after reception of Step 1 until the reception of Step 2.

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Inactivity Timer Handling with Two-Step Granting

In one embodiment, the UE can start a timer in response to the first trigger becoming invalid or in response to the second trigger being received, and due to fact that this timer is running, the UE will be in Active Time. This timer may be a timer such as the DRX inactivity timer in LTE, for example. Therefore, the method 500 may include determining whether the first trigger became invalid. In response to determining that the first trigger became invalid, the method 500 then includes starting a timer and exiting the state only upon expiration of the timer. FIG. 12 illustrates the scenario where the UE starts a timer (inactivity timer) in response to Step 1 becoming invalid. The UE may therefore be in Active Time after Step 1 becomes invalid since the timer is running.

Below are examples of how such methods may be implemented in the LTE medium access control (MAC) specification.

Embodiment 1

According to one embodiment herein, the UE starts a timer in response to reception of the first trigger and the UE would be in Active Time when that timer is running. The duration of this timer may be the duration of the validity time of the first trigger. The duration may then be indicated to the UE in the first trigger. Another possibility is that the duration is configurable by the eNB, e.g., by use of RRC signaling.

When the timer is not running the UE would no longer be in Active Time (but as explained above, the UE may be in Active Time for other reasons). The timer may be stopped when the UE receives the second trigger. And if the timer expires, the timer would not be running any longer and hence the UE would not be in Active Time.

One possible example of how this can be implemented in the LTE MAC specification is provided below (3GPP TS 36.321 v13.2.0). The added words are shown with underlined text:

5.7 Discontinuous Reception (DRX)

The MAC entity may be configured by RRC with a DRX functionality that controls the UE's PDCCH monitoring activity for the MAC entity's C-RNTI, TPC-PUCCH-RNTI, TPC-PUSCH-RNTI, Semi-Persistent Scheduling C-RNTI (if configured), eIMTA-RNTI (if configured) and SL-RNTI (if configured). When in RRC_CONNECTED, if DRX is configured, the MAC entity is allowed to monitor the PDCCH discontinuously using the DRX operation specified in this subclause; otherwise the MAC entity monitors the PDCCH continuously. When using DRX operation, the MAC entity shall also monitor PDCCH according to requirements found in other subclauses of this specification. RRC controls DRX operation by configuring the timers onDurationTimer, drx-InactivityTimer, drx-Retransmission Timer (one per DL HARQ process except for the broadcast process), drx-ULRetransmissionTimer (one per asynchronous UL HARQ process), the longDRX-Cycle, the value of the drxStartOffset and optionally the drxShortCycleTimer and shortDRX-Cycle. A HARQ RTT timer per DL HARQ process (except for the broadcast process) and UL HARQ RTT Timer per asynchronous UL HARQ process is also defined (see subclause 7.7).

When a DRX cycle is configured, the Active Time includes the time while:

onDurationTimer or drx-InactivityTimer or drx-RetransmissionTimer or drx-ULRetransmissionTimer

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or mac-ContentionResolutionTimer (as described in subclause 5.1.5) or twoStepGrantTimer is running; or

a Scheduling Request is sent on PUCCH and is pending (as described in subclause 5.4.4); or

an uplink grant for a pending HARQ retransmission can occur and there is data in the corresponding HARQ buffer for synchronous HARQ process; or

a PDCCH indicating a new transmission addressed to the C-RNTI of the MAC entity has not been received after successful reception of a Random Access Response for the preamble not selected by the MAC entity (as described in subclause 5.1.4).

When DRX is configured, the MAC entity shall for each subframe:

if a HARQ RTT Timer expires in this subframe:

if the data of the corresponding HARQ process was not successfully decoded:

start the drx-RetransmissionTimer for the corresponding HARQ process;

if NB-IoT, start or restart the drx-InactivityTimer.

if an UL HARQ RTT Timer expires in this subframe:

start the drx-ULRetransmissionTimer for the corresponding HARQ process.

if NB-IoT, start or restart the drx-InactivityTimer.

if a DRX Command MAC control element or a Long DRX Command MAC control element is received:

stop onDurationTimer;

stop drx-Inactivity Timer.

if drx-InactivityTimer expires or a DRX Command MAC control element is received in this subframe:

if the Short DRX cycle is configured:

start or restart drxShortCycleTimer;

use the Short DRX Cycle.

else:

use the Long DRX cycle.

if drxShortCycleTimer expires in this subframe:

use the Long DRX cycle.

if a Long DRX Command MAC control element is received:

stop drxShortCycleTimer;

use the Long DRX cycle.

If the Short DRX Cycle is used and $[(\text{SFN} \cdot 10) + \text{subframe number}] \bmod (\text{shortDRX-Cycle}) = (\text{drxStartOffset}) \bmod (\text{shortDRX-Cycle})$; or

if the Long DRX Cycle is used and $[(\text{SFN} \cdot 10) + \text{subframe number}] \bmod (\text{longDRX-Cycle}) = \text{drxStartOffset}$:

start onDurationTimer.

during the Active Time, for a PDCCH-subframe, if the subframe is not required for uplink transmission for half-duplex FDD UE operation, and if the subframe is not a half-duplex guard subframe [7] and if the subframe is not part of a configured measurement gap and if the subframe is not part of a configured Sidelink Discovery Gap for Reception, and for NB-IoT if the subframe is not required for uplink transmission or downlink reception other than on PDCCH; or

during the Active Time, for a subframe other than a PDCCH-subframe and for a UE capable of simultaneous reception and transmission in the aggregated cells, if the subframe is a downlink subframe indicated by a valid eIMTA L1 signalling for at least one serving cell not configured with schedulingCellId [8] and if the subframe is not part of a configured

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measurement gap and if the subframe is not part of a configured Sidelink Discovery Gap for Reception; or

during the Active Time, for a subframe other than a PDCCH-subframe and for a UE not capable of simultaneous reception and transmission in the aggregated cells, if the subframe is a downlink subframe indicated by a valid eIMTA L1 signalling for the SpCell and if the subframe is not part of a configured measurement gap and if the subframe is not part of a configured Sidelink Discovery Gap for Reception:

monitor the PDCCH;

if the PDCCH indicates a DL transmission or if a DL assignment has been configured for this subframe:

if the UE is an NB-IoT UE, a BL UE or a UE in enhanced coverage:

start the HARQ RTT Timer for the corresponding HARQ process in the subframe containing the last repetition of the corresponding PDSCH reception;

else:

start the HARQ RTT Timer for the corresponding HARQ process;

stop the drx-RetransmissionTimer for the corresponding HARQ process.

if the PDCCH indicates an UL transmission for an asynchronous HARQ process:

start the UL HARQ RTT Timer for the corresponding HARQ process in the subframe containing the last repetition of the corresponding PUSCH transmission;

stop the drx-ULRetransmission Timer for the corresponding HARQ process.

if the PDCCH indicates a new transmission (DL, UL or SL):

except for NB-IoT, start or restart drx-InactivityTimer.

if the PDCCH indicates a PUSCH trigger A:

start or restart twoStepGrantTimer;

if the PDCCH indicates a PUSCH trigger B:

stop the twoStepGrantTimer;

if the PDCCH indicates a transmission (DL, UL) for a NB-IoT UE:

stop drx-InactivityTimer, drx-ULRetransmissionTimer and onDurationTimer.

in current subframe n, if the MAC entity would not be in Active Time considering grants/assignments/DRX Command MAC control elements/Long DRX Command MAC control elements received and Scheduling Request sent until and including subframe n-5 when evaluating all DRX Active Time conditions as specified in this subclause, type-0-triggered SRS [2] shall not be reported.

if CQI masking (cqi-Mask) is setup by upper layers:

in current subframe n, if onDurationTimer would not be running considering grants/assignments/DRX Command MAC control elements/Long DRX Command MAC control elements received until and including subframe n-5 when evaluating all DRX Active Time conditions as specified in this subclause, CQI/PMI/RI/PTI/CRI on PUCCH shall not be reported.

else:

in current subframe n, if the MAC entity would not be in Active Time considering grants/assignments/DRX Command MAC control elements/Long

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DRX Command MAC control elements received and Scheduling Request sent until and including subframe n-5 when evaluating all DRX Active Time conditions as specified in this subclause, CQI/PMI/RI/PTI/CRI on PUCCH shall not be reported.

Regardless of whether the MAC entity is monitoring PDCCH or not, the MAC entity receives and transmits HARQ feedback and transmits type-1-triggered SRS [2] when such is expected.

NOTE: The same Active Time applies to all activated serving cell(s).

NOTE: In case of downlink spatial multiplexing, if a TB is received while the HARQ RTT Timer is running and the previous transmission of the same TB was received at least N subframes before the current subframe (where N corresponds to the HARQ RTT Timer), the MAC entity should process it and restart the HARQ RTT Timer.

NOTE: The BL UE and the UE in enhanced coverage waits until the last subframe of the configured MPDCCH search space before executing the next specified action.

Embodiment 2

According to another embodiment, a condition for considering the UE to be in Active Time can be added, and the condition is that while the UE shall be in active time (as described by the embodiments herein) when the conditions are being fulfilled.

An example of how this can be implemented in the LTE MAC specification is provided below (3GPP TS 36.321 v13.2.0). The added words are shown with underlined text in the alternative examples:

Alternative A

Section 5.7, labeled "Discontinuous Reception (DRX)" can be edited to state, in part:

When a DRX cycle is configured, the Active Time includes the time while:

onDurationTimer or drx-Inactivity Timer or drx-Retransmission Timer or drx-ULRetransmissionTimer or mac-ContentionResolutionTimer (as described in subclause 5.1.5) or twoStepGrantTimer is running;

or

a Scheduling Request is sent on PUCCH and is pending (as described in subclause 5.4.4); or

an uplink grant for a pending HARQ retransmission can occur and there is data in the corresponding HARQ buffer for synchronous HARQ process; or

a PDCCH indicating a new transmission addressed to the C-RNTI of the MAC entity has not been received after successful reception of a Random Access Response for the preamble not selected by the MAC entity (as described in subclause 5.1.4), or

a PUSCH trigger B has yet not been received for a valid PUSCH trigger A

Alternative B:

In this alternative, Section 5.7 can be edited to state, in part (see underlined addition):

When a DRX cycle is configured, the Active Time includes the time while:

onDurationTimer or drx-Inactivity Timer or drx-Retransmission Timer or drx-ULRetransmissionTimer or mac-ContentionResolutionTimer (as described in subclause 5.1.5) is running; or

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- a Scheduling Request is sent on PUCCH and is pending (as described in subclause 5.4.4); or
- an uplink grant for a pending HARQ retransmission can occur and there is data in the corresponding HARQ buffer for synchronous HARQ process; or
- a PDCCH indicating a new transmission addressed to the C-RNTI of the MAC entity has not been received after successful reception of a Random Access Response for the preamble not selected by the MAC entity (as described in subclause 5.1.4), or
- a PUSCH trigger B has yet not been received for a PDCCH trigger A and the PDCCH trigger A is still valid.

Alternative C:

According to another alternative, it can be shown that the UE will, upon reception of Step 2 or upon Step 1 becoming invalid, start the drx-InactivityTimer, which makes the UE enter Active Time.

Section 5.7, in this alternative, states, in part:

When a DRX cycle is configured, the Active Time includes the time while:

- onDurationTimer or drx-InactivityTimer or drx-RetransmissionTimer or drx-ULRetransmissionTimer or mac-ContentionResolutionTimer (as described in subclause 5.1.5) or twoStepGrantTimer is running;
- or
- a Scheduling Request is sent on PUCCH and is pending (as described in subclause 5.4.4); or
- an uplink grant for a pending HARQ retransmission can occur and there is data in the corresponding HARQ buffer for synchronous HARQ process; or
- a PDCCH indicating a new transmission addressed to the C-RNTI of the MAC entity has not been received after successful reception of a Random Access Response for the preamble not selected by the MAC entity (as described in subclause 5.1.4).

When DRX is configured, the MAC entity shall for each subframe:

- if a HARQ RTT Timer expires in this subframe:
 - if the data of the corresponding HARQ process was not successfully decoded:
 - start the drx-RetransmissionTimer for the corresponding HARQ process;
 - if NB-IoT, start or restart the drx-InactivityTimer.
 - if an UL HARQ RTT Timer expires in this subframe:
 - start the drx-ULRetransmissionTimer for the corresponding HARQ process.
 - if NB-IoT, start or restart the drx-InactivityTimer.
- if a DRX Command MAC control element or a Long DRX Command MAC control element is received:
 - stop onDurationTimer;
 - stop drx-Inactivity Timer.
- if drx-InactivityTimer expires or a DRX Command MAC control element is received in this subframe:
 - if the Short DRX cycle is configured:
 - start or restart drxShortCycleTimer;
 - use the Short DRX Cycle.
 - else:
 - use the Long DRX cycle.
- if drxShortCycleTimer expires in this subframe:
 - use the Long DRX cycle.
- if a Long DRX Command MAC control element is received:
 - stop drxShortCycleTimer;
 - use the Long DRX cycle.

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- If the Short DRX Cycle is used and $[(SFN*10)+subframe\ number] \bmod (shortDRX-Cycle) = (drxStartOffset) \bmod (shortDRX-Cycle)$; or
- if the Long DRX Cycle is used and $[(SFN*10)+subframe\ number] \bmod (longDRX-Cycle) = drxStartOffset$:

start onDurationTimer.

during the Active Time, for a PDCCH-subframe, if the subframe is not required for uplink transmission for half-duplex FDD UE operation, and if the subframe is not a half-duplex guard subframe [7] and if the subframe is not part of a configured measurement gap and if the subframe is not part of a configured Sidelink Discovery Gap for Reception, and for NB-IoT if the subframe is not required for uplink transmission or downlink reception other than on PDCCH; or

during the Active Time, for a subframe other than a PDCCH-subframe and for a UE capable of simultaneous reception and transmission in the aggregated cells, if the subframe is a downlink subframe indicated by a valid eIMTA L1 signalling for at least one serving cell not configured with schedulingCellId [8] and if the subframe is not part of a configured measurement gap and if the subframe is not part of a configured Sidelink Discovery Gap for Reception; or

during the Active Time, for a subframe other than a PDCCH-subframe and for a UE not capable of simultaneous reception and transmission in the aggregated cells, if the subframe is a downlink subframe indicated by a valid eIMTA L1 signalling for the SpCell and if the subframe is not part of a configured measurement gap and if the subframe is not part of a configured Sidelink Discovery Gap for Reception:

monitor the PDCCH;

if the PDCCH indicates a DL transmission or if a DL assignment has been configured for this subframe:

- if the UE is an NB-IoT UE, a BL UE or a UE in enhanced coverage:

- start the HARQ RTT Timer for the corresponding HARQ process in the subframe containing the last repetition of the corresponding PDSCH reception;

else:

- start the HARQ RTT Timer for the corresponding HARQ process;
- stop the drx-RetransmissionTimer for the corresponding HARQ process.

if the PDCCH indicates an UL transmission for an asynchronous HARQ process:

- start the UL HARQ RTT Timer for the corresponding HARQ process in the subframe containing the last repetition of the corresponding PUSCH transmission;
- stop the drx-ULRetransmissionTimer for the corresponding HARQ process.

if the PDCCH indicates a new transmission (DL, UL or SL):

- except for NB-IoT, start or restart drx-InactivityTimer.

if the PDCCH indicates a PUSCH trigger A:

- start or restart twoStepGrantTimer;

- if the PDCCH indicates a PUSCH trigger B or the PUSCH trigger A becomes invalid:

- stop the twoStepGrantTimer;

start or restart the drx-InactivityTimer;
if the PDCCH indicates a transmission (DL, UL) for
a NB-IoT UE:

stop drx-InactivityTimer, drx-ULRetransmission-
Timer and onDurationTimer.

in current subframe n, if the MAC entity would not be
in Active Time considering grants/assignments/DRX
Command MAC control elements/Long DRX Com-
mand MAC control elements received and Scheduling
Request sent until and including subframe n-5
when evaluating all DRX Active Time conditions as
specified in this subclause, type-O-triggered SRS [2]
shall not be reported.

if CQI masking (cqi-Mask) is setup by upper layers:

in current subframe n, if onDurationTimer would not
be running considering grants/assignments/DRX
Command MAC control elements/Long DRX
Command MAC control elements received until
and including subframe n-5 when evaluating all
DRX Active Time conditions as specified in this
subclause, CQI/PMI/RI/PTI/CRI on PUCCH shall
not be reported.

else:

in current subframe n, if the MAC entity would not
be in Active Time considering grants/assignments/
DRX Command MAC control elements/Long
DRX Command MAC control elements received
and Scheduling Request sent until and including
subframe n-5 when evaluating all DRX Active
Time conditions as specified in this subclause,
CQI/PMI/RI/PTI/CRI on PUCCH shall not be
reported.

Regardless of whether the MAC entity is monitoring
PDCCH or not, the MAC entity receives and transmits
HARQ feedback and transmits type-1-triggered SRS
[2] when such is expected.

NOTE: The same Active Time applies to all activated
serving cell(s).

NOTE: In case of downlink spatial multiplexing, if a
TB is received while the HARQ RTT Timer is
running and the previous transmission of the same
TB was received at least N subframes before the
current subframe (where N corresponds to the
HARQ RTT Timer), the MAC entity should process
it and restart the HARQ RTT Timer.

NOTE: The BL UE and the UE in enhanced coverage
waits until the last subframe of the configured
MPDCCH search space before executing the next
specified action.

FIG. 13 is a diagram of a UE 14 including modules
implemented in software that, when executed by a processor
of the UE 14, causes the UE 14 to operate according to a
DRX configuration and receive, from a wireless communi-
cations network, two-step grants for uplink transmissions.
The implementation includes a determining module 66 for
determining whether the UE 14 has received a first trigger of
a two-step grant. The determining module 66 is also for
causing the UE 14 to enter a state in which the UE 14 listens
on a physical downlink control channel for messages from
the network, in response to determining that the UE 14 has
received the first trigger. The implementation may also
include a reception module 64 for receiving the triggers.

FIG. 14 is a diagram of a network node 12 including
modules implemented in software that, when executed by a
processor of the network node 12, causes the network node
12 to provide, to a wireless communications device operat-
ing according to a DRX configuration, two-step grants for

uplink transmissions. The implementation includes a trans-
mission module 62 for transmitting a first trigger of the
two-step grant and for, prior to transmitting a second trigger
of the two-step grant, transmitting physical downlink control
channel messages to the device to be received during a state
in which the device listens on a physical downlink control
channel for messages from the network. The implementation
also includes a configuration determining module 60 for
determining the DRX configuration of the wireless device.

Of course, various modules of hardware and software
elements, alone or combination, could be used to perform
the steps described herein. Further, any or all functions could
be performed by one or more nodes, such as in a cloud or
other network node.

Those skilled in the art will recognize improvements and
modifications to the embodiments of the present disclosure.
All such improvements and modifications are considered
within the scope of the concepts disclosed herein.

What is claimed is:

1. A method performed by a wireless communications
device operating according to a Discontinuous Reception
(DRX) configuration and configured to receive, from a
wireless communications network, two-step grants for
scheduling uplink transmissions using a first physical down-
link control channel, PDCCH, transmission that indicates a
first trigger, which has an associated second trigger that is
transmitted in a second PDCCH transmission such that a
combination of the first and second PDCCH transmissions
grants that the device can perform an uplink transmission,
the method comprising:

determining whether the device has received a first trigger
of a two-step grant; and

in response to determining that the device has received the
first trigger, entering a state in which the device listens
on a physical downlink control channel for messages
from the network, wherein entering the state comprises
waiting a predetermined period of time after receiving
the first trigger before entering the state.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether the first trigger became invalid; and
in response to determining that the first trigger became
invalid, exiting the state.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
starting a timer in response to receiving the first trigger;
and

exiting the state only upon expiration of the timer.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein a duration of
the timer is received with the first trigger.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether the first trigger became invalid;
in response to determining that the first trigger became
invalid, starting a timer; and
exiting the state only upon expiration of the timer.

6. The method according to claim 3, wherein a duration of
the timer is received in Radio Resource Control (RRC)
signaling.

7. The method according to claim 3, further comprising
stopping the timer in response to receiving a second trigger
of the two-step grant.

8. The method according to of claim 7, wherein a time in
which the device is in the state includes a transmission
timing interval (TTI) in which the second trigger was
received.

9. The method according to claim 3, wherein exiting the
state only upon expiration of the timer comprises exiting the
state before a second trigger of the two-step grant has been
received.

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10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether the device has received a second
trigger of the two-step grant; and
in response to determining that the device has received the
second trigger, exiting the state.

11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether the device has received a second
trigger of the two-step grant;
in response to determining that the device has received the
second trigger, determining whether a particular timer
is running; and
in response to determining that the timer is running,
exiting the state only after expiration of the timer.

12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a second trigger of the two-step grant; and
exiting the state in response to transmitting an uplink
transmission triggered by the second trigger.

13. The method according to of claim 1, wherein a time
in which the device is in the state includes a transmission
timing interval (TTI) in which the first trigger was received.

14. A wireless communications device configured to
operate according to a Discontinuous Reception (DRX)
configuration and configured to receive, from a wireless
communications network, two-step grants for scheduling
uplink transmissions using a first physical downlink control
channel, PDCCH, transmission that indicates a first trigger,
which has an associated second trigger that is transmitted in
a second PDCCH transmission such that a combination of
the first and second PDCCH transmissions grants that the
device can perform an uplink transmission, the device
comprising:

transceiver circuitry configured for communication with
the network; and

processing circuitry operatively associated with the trans-
ceiver circuitry and configured to:

determine whether the device has received a first trig-
ger of a two-step grant; and

cause the device to enter a state in which the device
listens on a physical downlink control channel for
messages from the network, in response to determin-

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ing that the device has received the first trigger,
wherein entering the state comprises waiting a pre-
determined period of time after receiving the first
trigger before entering the state.

15. A network node of a wireless communications net-
work, wherein the network node is configured to provide, to
a wireless communications device operating according to a
Discontinuous Reception (DRX) configuration, two-step
grants for scheduling uplink transmissions using a first
physical downlink control channel, PDCCH, transmission
that indicates a first trigger, which has an associated second
trigger that is transmitted in a second PDCCH transmission
such that a combination of the first and second PDCCH
transmissions grants that the device can perform an uplink
transmission, the network node comprising:

transceiver circuitry configured for communication with
the wireless communications device; and

processing circuitry operatively associated with the trans-
ceiver circuitry and configured to:

transmit, via the transceiver circuitry, a first trigger of
a two-step grant;

transmit a duration of a timer to be started by the
wireless communications device, wherein the device
exits the state only upon expiration of the timer; and

prior to transmitting a second trigger of the two-step
grant, transmit physical downlink control channel
messages to the device to be received during a state
in which the device listens on a physical downlink
control channel for messages from the network.

16. The network node according to claim 15, wherein the
processing circuitry is configured to transmit the second
trigger via the transceiver circuitry.

17. The network node according to claim 15, wherein the
processing circuitry is configured to determine whether the
device is configured to enter the state before receiving the
second trigger.

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